

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6994

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH ROK FOREIGN MINISTER RE PEKING VISIT

SUMMARY: FONMIN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE SUGGESTION OF THREE-POWER TALKS WITHOUT CHINESE PARTICIPATION DURING SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT. CHARGE AND FONMIN AGREE NEED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATION ON ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN TO FURTHER OUR EFFORTS AT RESOLVING KOREAN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY

1. CHAREGE AND POLCOUNS MET WITH FONMIN, PAK SANG YONG AND CHUNG WOO YOUNG, AT 1100 AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19.

FONMIN INDICATED HE HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO POSSIBLE US SUGGESTION THAT IN EVENT CHINA UNWILLING PARTICIPATE SECRETARY MIGHT SUGGEST POSSIBLE THREE-POWER TALKS (US-ROK-DPRK), DURING PEKING VISIT. FONMIN FOUND THIS DISTURBING FOR FOUR REASONS: (A) AT PRESENT ROKG DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO BEYOND PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED FOUR-POWER FORMAT. SHIFT AT THIS TIME BY US, COUPLED WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL, COULD BE SEEN BY DPRK AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS; (B) SHOULD DPRK ACCEPT THE IDEA, IT WOULD INCLINE WORLD OPINION TO VIEW THAT DPRK WAS ACTING IN MORE REASONABLE MANNER AND HAD MADE PROGRESS WITH THE US. THIS VIEW
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SUPPORTED BY RECENT DPRK FEELERS FOR TALKS DIRECTLY WITH THE US; (C) FOUR-POWER TALKS ARE IN ACCORD WITH SIGNATORS KOREAN ARMISTICE AND TALKS WITHOUT CHINA WOULD PROBABLY NOT RESULT IN ANY LASTING SOLUTION. ROK VIEWS CHINESE PARTICIPATION AS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS; (D) SINCE MANY FEEL THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL IMPLIES UNILATERAL DISENGAGEMENT, (CHARGE INTERJECTED THAT THIS WAS NOT US VIEW).

FONMIN CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT GIVEN UNILATERAL DISENGAGEMENT VIEW, PROPOSAL NOW OF THREE-POWER VICE FOUR-POWER TALKS COULD BE SEEN AS UNDUE HASTE TO REACH SOME TYPE OF SOLUTION. IN THIS RESPECT HE NOTED THAT IN DEALING WITH DPRK THE ROK SAW IT AS A WAR OF PATIENCE AND NERVES AND WE SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE LOSING PATIENCE. GIVEN THE ABOVE, HE EXPRESSED HOPE SECRETARY WOULD NOT FLOAT THREE-POWER CONSULTATION CONCEPT.

2. CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO PASS ON FONMIN'S VIEWS TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. CHARGE THEN STRESSED NEED TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF OTHER POSSIBLE EFFORTS WE MIGHT UNDERTAKE EITHER SEPARATELY OR IN PARALLEL WITH SUPPORT FOR FOUR-POWER TALKS AND NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. FONMIN RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVING CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLE SUGGESTION OF TALKS WITH DPRK AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL BUT HAD NOT YET REACHED ANY CONCLUSION. CHARGE RECAPING CONVERSATION NOTED WE HAVE TWO OBJECTIVES: (A) PERMANENT AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREAN ISSUE; AND (B) FAILING SOLUTION, WORLD RECOGNITION THAT DPRK IS SIDE RESPONSIBLE FOR LACK OF PROGRESS. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE FUTURE INITIATIVES EITHER JOINT OR PARALLEL. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING FONMIN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IN LIGHT OF ROK CONCERNS HE WAS SURE US WOULD NOT RAISE THREE-POWER CONCEPT IN PEKING.
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3. FONMIN ASKED FOR ASSURANCE THAT ROK WOULD BE BRIEFED FOLLOWING PEKING VISIT AND POSSIBLE IDENTITY OF BRIEFER. CHARGE ASSURED HIM OF BRIEFING BUT STATED WE NOT PRESENTLY INFORMED OF WHO WILL ACTUALLY VISIT ROK.

4. COMMENT: WHILE DEVELOPING LENGTHY RATIONALE FOR OBJECTION TO NEW INITIATIVE, IT IS CLEAR THAT ROKG IS PRESENTLY SATISFIED WITH CURRENT TRENDS AND UNCOMFORTABLE WITH ANY THOUGHT OF CHANGING GAME PLAN. FONMIN WAS BUOYED BY HIS RECEPTION IN AFRICA AND VERY MUCH VIEWS EVENTS AS MOVING IN FAVOR OF ROK. FURTHER, IT WOULD BE FAIR TO ASSUME THAT ROK WOULD BE CONCERNED AT DPRK AGREEMENT TO TALK AND IMPACT SUCH A MOVE WOULD HAVE ON WORLD OPINION OF DPRK STATUS.

5. REGRET STATE 197395 RECEIVED AFTER CHARGE MEETING WITH FONMIN.
STERN
NOTE: HANDLE AS NODIS PER SSO THYDEN 8/19/77.

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